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Letter dated 15 September 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 15 September 2004, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Reşat Çağlar, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 29, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Annex to the letter dated 15 September 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 12 August 2004 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot Representative in New York, which was circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (see A/58/869-S/2004/646), and to bring to your kind attention the following:

I would like to reiterate, at the outset, that the Greek Cypriot administration, in its purported capacity as the "Government of the Republic of Cyprus", can neither represent nor act on behalf of the Turkish Cypriot people and cannot claim any right over the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The de facto division on the island has come about as a result of the destruction of the Partnership Republic of Cyprus in 1963 by the Greek Cypriot side. Through years of struggle for existence by the Turkish Cypriot side, two separate administrations emerged and each side has ruled itself ever since. Hence, the attempts, at every opportunity, of the Greek Cypriot administration to extend its illegal authority over the Turkish Cypriot people are totally unacceptable.

As you are well aware, the Turkish Cypriot people, in exercising its right to determine its own future, voted in favour of your settlement plan in separate simultaneous referenda held on both sides of the island on 24 April 2004, whereas the Greek Cypriot people overwhelmingly rejected it. The plan submitted by you to the two sides was a compromise. It was not designed to and did not satisfy the demands of the parties in toto. The Turkish Cypriot people voted overwhelmingly in favour of it despite the fact that the plan, particularly the provisions on the issue of property, entailed many sacrifices for them. Had the Greek Cypriot side not resoundingly voted against it, the issue of property in particular and the Cyprus problem in general would have been resolved within the context of your comprehensive settlement plan.

You are also aware that the Turkish Cypriot side, cognizant of the fact that the property issue is the thorniest issue and constitutes the crux of the Cyprus problem and in the absence of a comprehensive settlement, has set up a legal mechanism to address the property claims of the Greek Cypriot people in the North. Unfortunately, the Greek Cypriot administration has threatened Greek Cypriots who have had the courage to file claims with publicizing their names and humiliating them before the Greek Cypriot people.

On the other hand, the crossings between North and South have enabled Turkish Cypriots to discover in despair that they had no homes to return to, in the event that they chose to do so as provided for by the plan, due to the widespread Greek Cypriot policy of expropriating Turkish Cypriot property in the South. Most recently, the Greek Cypriot administration has announced that the value of the Turkish Cypriot-owned land expropriated by the Greek Cypriot administration amounts to millions of Cyprus pounds and that more Turkish Cypriot-owned land would be expropriated. It has also been reported in the Greek Cypriot press that in the period 2002-2003 alone, the land of more than 500 Turkish Cypriots has been expropriated.

I would like to underline, once again, that transactions involving the sale of property in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus are a matter concerning only the relevant authorities of the State. The claims of the Greek Cypriot representative that the property transactions taking place in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus are illegal and would constitute liabilities to the people who purchase them are totally unfounded. Those allegations are yet another example of the Greek Cypriot policy aimed at distracting attention from the fact that the issue of property in particular and the Cyprus problem in general remain unresolved due to the overwhelming rejection by the Greek Cypriot side of your settlement plan.

(*Signed*) Reşat **Çağlar**
Representative